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Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants
Seventh meeting
Geneva, 4–15 May 2015
Item 5 (e) of the provisional agenda*

Matters related to the implementation of the Convention: listing of chemicals in Annex A, B or C to the Convention

Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee: developments for action by the Conference of the Parties

Note by the Secretariat

I. Introduction

1. The Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee held its ninth and tenth meetings in Rome from 14 to 18 October 2013 and from 27 to 30 October 2014, respectively. The reports of those meetings are available in documents UNEP/POPS/POPRC.9/13 and UNEP/POPS/POPRC.10/10, respectively.[1]

II. Issues of relevance to the Conference of the Parties

A. Membership and election of the Chair

2. As requested by the Conference of the Parties in paragraph 5 of decision SC-6/14, at its ninth meeting the Committee identified Ms. Estefânia Moreira (Brazil) as Chair of the Committee on an interim basis for its tenth meeting. The Conference of the Parties is expected to confirm the election of the Chair at its seventh meeting.

* UNEP/POPS/COP.7/1.

[1] See http://chm.pops.int/tabid/3309/Default.aspx.

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3. In furtherance of decision SC-6/14, the following 17 experts were nominated, on an interim basis, as members of Committee to serve a four-year term from 5 May 2014 to 4 May 2018: :

African States	Mr. Hubert Binga (Gabon), Mr. Mantoa Sekota (Lesotho), Mr. Sidi Ould Aloueimine (Mauritania) and Mr. Ousmane Sow (Senegal)
Asia-Pacific States	Mr. Seyed Jamaleddin Shahtaheri (Islamic Republic of Iran), Mr. Said Ali Alzedjali (Oman), Mr. Zaigham Abbas (Pakistan) and Mr. Jayakody Sumith (Sri Lanka)
Central and Eastern European States	Ms. Tamara Kukharchyk (Belarus) and Mr. Pavel Čupr (Czech Republic)
Latin American and Caribbean States	Ms. Consuelo Meneses (Ecuador), Mr. Marcus Richards (Saint Vincent and Grenadines) and Mr. Armando Diaz Cortes (Venezuela, Bolivarian Republic of)
Western European and other States	Mr. Jack Holland (Australia), Ms. Ingrid Hauzenberger (Austria), Ms. Michelle Kivi (Canada) and Ms. Maria Delvin (Sweden)

4. In addition, during the period between the eighth and ninth meetings of the Committee, Cuba designated Mr. Jorge Álvarez Álvarez to replace Mr. Mario Abó Balanza; Egypt designated Mr. Raouf Okasha to replace Ms. Fatma Abou El Shouk; and, during the period between the ninth and tenth meetings of the Committee, Kuwait designated Mr. Abdul Nabi Abdullah Al-Ghadban to replace Ms. Lulwa Ali.

5. The curricula vitae of the experts mentioned in paragraphs 3 and 4 above can be found in the information notes by the Secretariat on the rotation of the membership and experts nominated as members of the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee (UNEP/POPS/POPRC.9/INF/4) and on newly designated members of the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee and forthcoming rotation of the membership in May 2016 (UNEP/POPS/POPRC.10/INF/3). All designated experts have submitted completed declaration of interest forms, in accordance with decision SC-1/8. The formal appointment of those experts as members of the Committee is expected to be made by the Conference of the Parties at its seventh meeting.

6. The terms of office of the remaining 14 members, including the interim Chair of the Committee, will expire on 4 May 2016. At its seventh meeting, the Conference of the Parties will need to decide on a list of parties that are to designate experts to fill the forthcoming vacancies on the Committee, subject to appointment by the Conference of the Parties at its eighth meeting. Each region should identify, through regional consultations, those parties that are to nominate members of the Committee and submit the names of experts to the Secretariat before the end of the meeting.

7. Furthermore, in accordance with rule 30 of the rules of procedure for the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention[2] and with paragraph 20 of the terms of reference of the Committee,[3] the Conference of the Parties is expected to elect the new Chair of the Committee or to agree that Ms. Moreira will serve again as Chair for a second and consecutive term.

B. Recommendations on listing new chemicals

8. At its eighth, ninth and tenth meetings, the Committee, pursuant to paragraphs 6 and 7 (a) of Article 8 of the Convention, completed the risk profiles and risk management evaluations for chlorinated naphthalenes,[4] hexachlorobutadiene[5] and pentachlorophenol and its salts and esters.[6]

9. In accordance with paragraph 9 of Article 8 of the Convention, the Committee decided to recommend to the Conference of the Parties that it consider listing those chemicals as follows:

(a) Dichlorinated naphthalenes, trichlorinated naphthalenes, tetrachlorinated naphthalenes, pentachlorinated naphthalenes, hexachlorinated naphthalenes, heptachlorinated naphthalenes and octachlorinated naphthalene (individually or as components of chlorinated naphthalenes) in Annexes

[2] Decision SC-1/1, annex.

[3] Decision SC-1/7, annex.

[4] UNEP/POPS/POPRC.8/16/Add.1 and UNEP/POPS/POPRC.9/13/Add.1.

[5] UNEP/POPS/POPRC.8/16/Add.2 and UNEP/POPS/POPRC.9/13/Add.2.

[6] UNEP/POPS/POPRC.9/13/Add.3 and UNEP/POPS/POPRC.10/10/Add.1.

A and C to the Convention;[7]

(b) Hexachlorobutadiene in Annexes A and C to the Convention;[8]

(c) Pentachlorophenol and its salts and esters in Annex A to the Convention with specific exemptions for the production and use of pentachlorophenol for utility poles and cross-arms.[9]

10. Pursuant to paragraph 2 of Article 21 of the Convention, on 31 October 2014, six months before the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties, the Secretariat communicated the recommendations to the parties and signatories to the Convention and, for information, to the Depositary. A compilation of submissions by parties relating to the recommendations is available in document UNEP/POPS/COP.7/INF/30.

C. Chemicals under consideration

11. The following chemicals are under consideration by the Committee:

(a) Decabromodiphenyl ether (commercial mixture, c-decaBDE);

(b) Dicofol; and

(c) Short-chained chlorinated paraffins.

12. In its decision POPRC-10/2, the Committee adopted the risk profile for decabromodiphenyl ether (commercial mixture, c-decaBDE)[10] and decided that the decabromodiphenyl ether component (BDE-209) of c-decaBDE is likely as a result of its long-range environmental transport to lead to significant adverse human health and environmental effects such that global action is warranted. The Committee established an intersessional working group to prepare a draft risk management evaluation for decabromodiphenyl ether (commercial mixture, c-decaBDE) in accordance with Annex F to the Convention.

13. In its decision POPRC-10/3, the Committee decided that the proposal by the European Union to list dicofol in Annexes A, B and/or C to the Convention met the screening criteria set out in Annex D to the Convention and established an intersessional working group to review the proposal further and develop a draft risk profile for dicofol in accordance with Annex E to the Convention.

14. Furthermore, at its eighth meeting, having considered the draft risk profile for short-chained chlorinated paraffins,[11] the Committee was unable to reach consensus on whether to move to the Annex F phase or to set the proposal aside. The Committee agreed to establish an intersessional working group to revise the relevant parts of the draft risk profile, which would be considered by the Committee at its eleventh meeting.[12] At its tenth meeting, the Committee commenced the work of the intersessional working group to prepare the revised draft risk profile.

15. The Committee adopted a workplan for the period between its tenth and eleventh meetings for the preparation of the draft risk profiles and draft risk management evaluation.[13]

D. Other technical work

1. Process for the evaluation of perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride pursuant to paragraphs 5 and 6 of part III of Annex B to the Convention

16. Information relevant to the process for the evaluation of perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS), its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride (PFOSF) pursuant to paragraphs 5 and 6 of part III of Annex B to the Convention is contained in the note by the Secretariat on the matter (UNEP/POPS/COP.7/8).

17. In its decision POPRC-10/4, the Committee decided to submit the summary of the report on the assessment of alternatives to PFOS, its salts and PFOSF set out in the annex to that decision, together with the full report on the assessment[14] and the factsheets on alternatives to those chemicals,[15] to the

[7] See UNEP/POPS/COP.7/18.

[8] See UNEP/POPS/COP.7/19.

[9] See UNEP/POPS/COP.7/20.

[10] UNEP/POPS/POPRC.10/10/Add.2.

[11] UNEP/POPS/POPRC.8/6.

[12] See UNEP/POPS/POPRC.8/16.

[13] UNEP/POPS/POPRC.10/10, annex III.

[14] See UNEP/POPS/POPRC.10/INF/7/Rev.1.

Conference of the Parties for consideration at its seventh meeting. The Committee also requested the Secretariat to finalize the report for the evaluation of information on PFOS, its salts and PFOSF[16] on the basis of comments and suggestions provided by the Committee[17] and to submit it to the Conference of the Parties for consideration at its seventh meeting.

2. Guidance on alternatives to PFOS, its salts, PFOSF and their related chemicals

18. In response to the request in paragraph 5 (d) (i) of decision SC-6/7, the Committee, by decision POPRC-10/5, established an intersessional working group to prepare a proposal for revising the guidance on alternatives to PFOS, its salts, PFOSF and their related chemicals[18] that consolidates the information on alternatives to those chemicals in the respective notes by the Secretariat (UNEP/POPS/POPRC.8/INF/17/Rev.1 and UNEP/POPS/POPRC.10/INF/7/Rev.1) and any other pertinent information. The revised guidance will be submitted to the Conference of the Parties at its eighth meeting.

3. Approach to the evaluation of chemicals in accordance with Annex E to the Convention

19. In its decision POPRC-9/7, the Committee endorsed the document set out in the annex to that decision outlining examples of practices used and decisions made in the evaluation of chemicals by the Committee in accordance with Annex E to the Convention and decided to take into account those examples in its future evaluation of chemicals proposed for listing in Annexes A, B and/or C to the Convention. The Committee also took note of the open issues in the evaluation of chemicals in accordance with Annex E to the Convention.[19]

4. Guidance on how to assess the possible impact of climate change on the work of the Committee

20. In its decision POPRC-9/8, the Committee adopted the guidance on how to assess the possible impact of climate change on the work of the Committee,[20] the approach to the consideration of climate change interactions with the chemicals proposed for listing in Annexes A, B and/or C to the Convention[21] and the recommendations developed on the basis of the guidance.[22] The Committee decided to forward the recommendations to the Conference of the Parties for consideration at its seventh meeting.

E. Cooperation and coordination with other scientific bodies

1. Back-to-back meetings of the Chemical Review Committee and the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee

21. To strengthen cooperation and coordination between the Chemical Review Committee of the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade and the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee, their ninth and tenth meetings were held back-to-back in Rome in October 2013 and 2014. At their tenth meetings, the committees agreed to hold their eleventh meetings back-to-back during the two-week period between 19 and 30 October 2015 in Rome.[23]

2. First joint meeting of the Chemical Review Committee and the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee

22. In accordance with paragraph 3 of decision RC-6/3 and paragraph 7 of decision SC-6/14, the first joint meeting of the Chemical Review Committee and the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee was held on 20 October 2014 (see UNEP/FAO/RC/POPS/CRC-POPRC.1/7).[24]

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[15] See UNEP/POPS/POPRC.10/INF/8/Rev.1.

[16] See UNEP/POPS/POPRC.10/INF/10.

[17] See UNEP/POPS/POPRC.10/INF/18.

[18] See UNEP/POPS/POPRC.9/INF/11/Rev.1.

[19] See UNEP/POPS/POPRC.9/INF/20.

[20] See UNEP/POPS/POPRC.9/INF/15.

[21] Decision POPRC-9/8, annex I.

[22] Decision POPRC-9/8, annex II.

[23] The Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee and the Chemical Review Committee tentatively agreed to meet from 19 to 23 October 2015 and from 26 to 30 October 2015, respectively. The length of the meetings might be adjusted by the respective Chair, in consultation with the Bureau or the vice-chair, depending on the work requirements.

[24] Available at http://synergies.pops.int/tabid/3400/Default.aspx.

23. At the joint meeting, the committees exchanged scientific information relating to the identification and listing of chemicals, the processes and contents of technical documents developed by the committees, and the experiences in decision-making by the committees. The committees noted that further work on enhancing cooperation and coordination among themselves could take place in the future and that the item would be on the agenda of future meetings of the committees.

24. As requested in paragraph 21 of the omnibus decision on enhancing cooperation and coordination among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions,[25] the committees discussed alignment of their working arrangements and took note of a number of initiatives that the Secretariat had taken to harmonize the organizing and running of and follow-up to the meetings of the conferences of the parties and subsidiary bodies of the three conventions. For example, the floor would generally be given to observers in plenary before taking decisions and contact groups would be set up to allow the participation of observers if further discussion of an issue was needed. Contact groups could later on be converted into drafting groups limited to the participation of members to finalize the drafting work.

25. Furthermore, in response to paragraph 22 of the omnibus decision, the committees established a joint intersessional working group to prepare draft guidance to assist parties to the Rotterdam Convention and the Chemical Review Committee in their work when a chemical under consideration was a persistent organic pollutant listed under the Stockholm Convention.[26] At their tenth meetings, the committees reviewed the draft guidance and adopted decisions CRC-10/6 and POPRC-10/6, by which they requested the group to finalize the draft guidance and submit it to the conferences of the parties to the Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions at their respective seventh meeting. The draft guidance is set out in the information note by the Secretariat on the issue (UNEP/POPS/POPRC.10/INF/11/Rev.1).

3. Feedback from the back-to-back meetings and the joint meeting of the committees

26. In response to the requests in paragraph 5 of decision RC-6/3 and paragraph 8 of decision SC-6/14, the Secretariat collected information on the experience in the organization of and the benefits gained from the back-to-back meetings and the joint meeting of the committees from participants of those meetings, as set out in the annex to its information note on the issue (UNEP/POPS/POPRC.10/INF/13). In paragraph 2 of decisions CRC-10/6 and POPRC-10/6, the committees requested the Secretariat to report to the conferences of the parties to the Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions at their seventh meetings on the benefits gained from and any negative impact of the back-to-back meetings of the committees and on the experience in the organization of the joint meeting, on the basis of the information collected.

4. Support for the work of and coordination between the scientific bodies of the conventions

27. As part of the activities to support the coordination and collaboration of scientific bodies of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions,[27] the Secretariat facilitated information exchange among those bodies, including by making relevant documents developed by one committee available to the meeting of the other committee. In addition, an online roster of experts[28] has been developed by the Secretariat at the request of the conferences of the parties to the three conventions in 2011.[29] The roster contains the curriculum vitae and other details of the members and other experts associated with the three conventions. The experts on the roster will be requested to review and update their entries in the roster every two years.

F. Activities for the effective participation of members and parties in the work of the Committee

28. For the purpose of providing orientation for incoming members, newly designated experts are invited to participate in a Committee meeting as observers prior to the start of their terms of office. In October 2013, 16 of the 17 newly designated experts whose term of office started in May 2014 participated in the ninth meeting of the Committee.

29. In its decision SC-6/14, the Conference of the Parties requested the Secretariat to continue, within available resources, the activities listed in decision POPRC-8/12 to assist parties and others to

[25] Decisions BC.Ex-2/1, RC.Ex.2/1 and SC.Ex-2/1.

[26] UNEP/FAO/RC/POPS/CRC-POPRC.1/7, para. 44.

[27] Activity 12 of the programme budget for the biennium 2014–2015, decisions BC-11/26, RC-6/16 and SC-6/30.

[28] http://synergies.pops.int/tabid/3791/Default.aspx.

[29] Decisions BC-10/29, RC-5/12 and SC-5/27, annex I.

participate effectively in the work of the Committee.

30. As part of the technical assistance programme of the Stockholm Convention,[30] the Secretariat organized face-to-face training activities for the Committee and other stakeholders and held a series of webinars on topics related to the work of the Committee.[31] Those activities also contributed to the work on enhancing cooperation and coordination among the scientific bodies of the three conventions.

31. The Secretariat organized two sub-regional training workshops on enhancing effective participation in the work of the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee and the Chemical Review Committee: from 19 to 21 November 2013 in Dakar, for French-speaking African countries, in cooperation with the Basel and Stockholm Conventions Regional Centre in Senegal; and from 10 to 12 February 2015 in Lusaka, for English-speaking African countries, in cooperation with the Basel Convention Coordinating Centre for the African Region in Nigeria. The workshops addressed the following key issues: benefits for parties and others of participating in the work of the committees; listing of new chemicals under the Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions; and reinforcing national capacities to collect and share information at the national level.

32. In its decision POPRC-10/7, the Committee invited the Secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, to continue its activities to support parties and others to participate effectively in the work of the Committee.

III. Proposed action

33. The Conference of the Parties may wish to adopt a decision along the following lines:

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Takes note* of the information provided in the reports of the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee on the work of its ninth and tenth meetings[32] and documents forwarded by the Committee to the Conference of the Parties;[33]

2. *Appoints* the 17 designated experts to serve as members of the Committee;[34]

3. *Adopts* the list of 14 parties to be invited to nominate Committee members for terms of office commencing on 5 May 2016 set out in the annex to the present decision;

4. *Elects* Ms. Estefânia Moreira (Brazil) as the Chair of the Committee;

5. [*Requests* the Committee at its eleventh meeting to identify an interim Chair of the Committee for its twelfth meeting, and decides to confirm the election of the Chair at the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention;][35]

6. *Welcomes* the guidance to assist parties to the Rotterdam Convention and the Chemical Review Committee in their work when a chemical under consideration is a persistent organic pollutant listed under the Stockholm Convention;[36]

7. *Also welcomes* the guidance on how to assess the possible impact of climate change on the work of the Committee,[37] the approach to the consideration of climate change interactions with the chemicals proposed for listing in Annexes A, B and/or C to the Convention and the recommendations developed on the basis of the guidance;[38]

[30] See UNEP/POPS/COP.6/INF/18.

[31] See UNEP/POPS/POPRC.10/INF/14.

[32] UNEP/POPS/POPRC.9/13 and Add.1–3 and UNEP/POPS/POPRC.10/10 and Add.1 and 2.

[33] UNEP/POPS/POPRC.9/INF/11/Rev.1, UNEP/POPS/POPRC.9/INF/20, UNEP/POPS/POPRC.10/INF/7/Rev.1, UNEP/POPS/POPRC.10/INF/8/Rev.1, UNEP/POPS/POPRC.10/INF/10/Rev.1, decision POPRC-9/7 and decision POPRC-10/4.

[34] See UNEP/POPS/POPRC.9/INF/4 and UNEP/POPS/POPRC.10/INF/3.

[35] This paragraph will not be necessary if the Conference of the Parties agrees that Ms. Moreira will serve again as Chair for a second and consecutive term.

[36] See UNEP/POPS/POPRC.10/INF/11/Rev.1.

[37] See UNEP/POPS/POPRC.9/INF/15.

[38] Decision POPRC-9/8, annex II.

8. *Takes note* of the information provided by the Secretariat on the experience in the organization of the back-to-back meetings and the joint meeting of the Chemical Review Committee and the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee;[39]

9. *Requests* the Secretariat to continue, subject to the availability of resources, to undertake activities to support parties and others to participate effectively in the work of the Committee as listed in decision POPRC-10/7 and to report on the results of those activities to the Conference of the Parties at its eighth meeting.

Annex to decision SC-7/[ ]

List of parties identified by the Conference of the Parties at its seventh meeting to nominate members of the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee whose terms of office commence on 5 May 2016

[To be completed for the African States (4), Asia-Pacific States (4), Central and Eastern European States (1), Latin American and Caribbean States (2), Western European and other States (3)]

[39] UNEP/POPS/POPRC.10/INF/13.